

Update on Pilot Program Completer Survey October 2013

Overview of this Report

This report continues a discussion about the Pilot Program Completer Survey for all applicants recommended for a preliminary teaching or service credential.

Staff Recommendation

As a continuing item on the Pilot Program Completer Survey, no specific action is required. The background section will give a brief overview of the history of the topic, a summary of the most recent work on the completer survey, and a timeline projecting benchmarks for the pilot survey.

Background to this Report

The issue of collecting statewide data about educator preparation programs is a timely one. The discussion for a Program Completer Survey formally began at the June 2012 Commission meeting. The development of a Program Completer Survey was one of fourteen recommendations approved by the Commission from the Professional Services Committee agenda item 6B: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2012-06/2012-06-6B.pdf>. The link to the Commission minutes is also embedded here and shows discussion with input and support from the public without a dissenting opinion. The link is as follows: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2012-08/2012-08-1A.pdf>

At the June 2012 meeting, the Commission directed staff to develop and pilot a Program Completer Survey to collect data that can be used in the accreditation process. The purpose of the pilot survey would be to provide information relative to both the Common and program standards and could focus the site visit. Further, per the agenda item, staff was directed to work with stakeholders and the Committee on Accreditation to develop a more streamlined and targeted site visit model that is cost effective, rigorous, and focuses on the essential attributes of high quality educator preparation. The data to support the revised site visit model would be generated, in part, by the Program Completer Survey.

As discussed at the June 2012 Commission meeting, a benefit from implementation of the specific recommendation to develop and pilot a Program Completer Survey would be that the data could provide a common set of information about approved programs to the Commission, the Committee on Accreditation, and the institutions that prepare California's educators.

In the September 2012 report *Greatness By Design: Supporting Outstanding Teaching to Sustain a Golden State*, the task force called directly for a narrowing of variability in program quality for both teacher education and administrator preparation (p. 28). In Chapter 3: Recommendations for Educator Preparation, Recommendation 3B states,

We recommend the CTC review research on successful program models that produce effective teachers and school leaders and incorporate these into accreditation standards...these features should also be reflected in data sources that will be regularly tapped for evidence about outcomes. These can inform strategic decisions about how to target both formative supports and visits and where to probe for more rigorous and well-informed accreditation judgments.

The task force then enumerates essential elements the accreditation process should include such as “Common surveys of program graduates upon initial licensure...” (p. 31).

At the Committee on Accreditation’s October 18, 2012, meeting there was a small group discussion of the pilot Program Completer Survey that discussed the following six guiding questions:

1. What is the focus of a survey? (Common Standards, program standards, high leverage standards?)
2. For which programs do we create the survey?
3. How should the results of a survey be used in accreditation?
4. Would the results be used to “close” a standard or decide if a standard is met?
5. What level of “positive” responses will allow a Common Standard to be “passed” or “closed” prior to a site visit?
6. What other possibilities are there for use of the data? (Comparability of responses, statewide mean versus institutional mean)

The discussion at the COA meeting in October 2012 raised several important considerations such as the possibility of survey fatigue, attention to not duplicating other existing efforts, ensuring the data can be shared with the institution, and the development of clear processes and procedures to use the data in accreditation. The topics discussed in October 2013 will continue to assist in the effort to develop the pilot project.

Obtaining Information from the Field

Staff had an opportunity to engage in a call with Commission Chair Linda Darling-Hammond in December 2012 to discuss her vision for the pilot Program Completer Survey. There was discussion about the use of this pilot survey for only applicants recommended for preliminary credentials, the need for a working group from the field to participate in the development of a survey, and agreement to focus on the Common Standards.

Staff placed a call for participation in a working group on PSD e-news and communicated with all interested constituents. An email went to all respondents with a doodle poll for the first telemeeting of the Program Completer Working Group and a date was set for a web-based call in January 2013.

Staff facilitated three meetings via web-hosted conference calls. Embedded here is the link to the meetings: <https://connect4.uc.att.com/calnet/meet/?RecordingKey=D62CE327-10A5-44B9-B468-11E0E3E14D38>. In the meetings, staff reviewed the purpose of the pilot survey, the focus on the Common Standards, the target audience, the format, and other surveys used by institutions within and outside of California. The working group all supported the purpose and utility of the survey and agreed to participate in drafting and editing the survey online.

At the February 2013 COA meeting, staff presented the progress on the development of the pilot survey and gained insight from the COA member discussion about the multi-faceted purpose, Common standards to be assessed, and questions for further discussion. The COA members identified a three-fold purpose to the pilot survey: 1. A common set of data across the state to tell the narrative of what is occurring in educator preparation in California, 2. data for institutions to assess their programs, and 3. use for streamlining accreditation site visits to targeted areas.

During the discussion at the February 2013 meeting, broadcast linked here: <http://video.ctc.ca.gov/2013-02-07-COAedited/> the COA members noted that the pilot survey could possibly relieve the burden from programs to gather survey data and developed, with staff, several questions for further exploration after pilot data is disaggregated:

1. Is there a response rate, from candidates recommended, that compels an accreditation action?
2. How can the survey results best be used in the accreditation process?
3. Are there Common Standards that would be best matched to alternate measures?
4. How and when will data be reported to institutions?
5. Will the data be reported to COA annually?

In general, COA members voiced support for the project and believed the data could be helpful to not only institutions of higher education but all entities that have educator preparation programs.

Implementation of the Pilot Survey

The pilot Program Completer Survey went live on June 30, 2013 to approximately 8,000 candidates recommended by accredited institutions. 753 completed surveys were received upon closing August 30, 2013.

The projected timeline for implementation of the Program Completer Survey is as follows:

- October 23, 2013: Working group reviews the pilot data
- December 11, 2013: Commission agenda item about the pilot Program Completer Survey data
- May-June , 2014: Program Completer survey goes live
- September-October, 2014: Meet with Working Group to discuss data analysis and dissemination of results

Discussion

The Commission's accreditation system is tasked with ensuring that all approved educator preparation programs are of high quality, meet the adopted standards, and focus on continuous improvement. The *Greatness by Design* task force found that only with the use of regular data sources can educator preparation programs be supported with accreditation processes to ensure that all programs are of the highest quality.

A summary of the data from this pilot program completer survey will be shared with the COA at the October 2013 meeting. Once the COA has an opportunity to review the data, staff poses the following questions for discussion at this meeting:

- What potential does the data have for accreditation processes?
- Are there particular standards that survey data could be particularly useful? Are there standards where survey data would not be appropriate?
- What limitations are there in the data?
- Should there be a minimum raw number or percentage of responses for the data to be used to focus a site visit?
- How might data be used to streamline the site visit review?
- How and when will the data be reported to institutions?

- How would the data be reported to the COA and what options would the COA have for acting on the data (sending a review team, directing a review team to review a particular aspect of a program, etc.)?
- What unintended consequences might there be by using survey data in accreditation?
- Are there suggestions for revising the survey questions?

The questions above are provided to generate a discussion with COA.

Next Steps

Commission staff will continue to analyze data and report findings and continue work to continue to develop additional surveys to inform the accreditation system.